

# Targeting serious repeat offenders

## Key facts:

- › 17% of young offenders commit 50% of crimes.
- › While the vast majority of young people who come into contact with the youth justice system do not reoffend, a small number of serious repeat offenders pose a threat to community safety.

## Existing action:

The government has a strong record of being tough on crime:

- › **Presumption against bail:** The toughest laws in the country. More serious repeat offenders are being held in custody, and for longer.
- › **Electronic monitoring:** For high-risk offenders on bail aged 16 and 17.
- › **Increasing youth detention centre capacity by 33%:** From 230 beds in 2015 to 306 beds in 2021, an increase of 76 beds.

## New action:

The Queensland Government is introducing tough new laws to target serious repeat offenders.

- › **Breach of bail:** Making breach of a bail condition an offence for young offenders, just as it is for adult offenders.
- › **Strengthening conditional release orders:** Extending the maximum period from 3 months to 6 months. Offenders on conditional release orders will serve their suspended term in detention if they breach a condition, unless special circumstances apply.
- › **New declaration of serious repeat offenders:** The Youth Justice Act will be amended to declare certain offenders as 'serious repeat offenders', meaning tougher sentencing principles to protect community safety must be applied.

- › **Increasing penalties for stolen vehicles:**

Increasing the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a motor vehicle from 7 years to 10 years imprisonment. Also requiring offences of unlawful use of a motor vehicle with circumstances of aggravation of violence or threatened violence to be heard by a District Court Judge.

- › **Expanding the number of offences with a presumption against bail:**

People who are passengers in stolen vehicles, commit burglary or enter a premise to commit an indictable offence will now have a presumption against bail.

- › **Increasing youth detention capacity:**

The government will build two new youth detention centres.

- › **Tougher penalties:** A more severe penalty of 14 years if the offence is committed at night, where the offender uses violence or threatens violence, is armed or pretends to be armed, is in company or damages or threatens to damage any property. Increased penalties for criminals who have boasted about these crimes on social media.

- › **New Youth Crime Taskforce:** Led by Taskforce Commander, George Marchesini.

- › **Extreme High-Visibility Police Patrols**

- › **Arrest on bail:** Clarifying that police **do not need to consider alternatives to arrest** if a young person contravenes or is likely to contravene a bail condition.

- › **Taking criminal history into account:**

Amending the Youth Justice Act requiring courts to take into account previous bail history, criminal activity and track record when sentencing.